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sion of even the most subtle, evanescent or mystical phases of his experience, he sought to translate it into intellectual terms, into "conceits." There is a truth, in spite of its perverse and unsympathetic statement, in the familiar comment of George Macdonald, in *England's Antiphon*: "The central thought of Dr. Donne is nearly always sure to be just: the subordinate thoughts by means of which he unfolds it are often grotesque, and so wildly associated as to remind one of the lawlessness of a dream, wherein mere suggestion without choice or fitness rules the sequence." This remark may at any rate serve as a warning to us, when we read Miss Ramsay's book, to look for the solution of the riddle of this unique Renaissance saint, not in any systematization of his subordinate thoughts, so "often grotesque," but in those central thoughts which are not only just, but intensely poetical and intensely human.

LOUIS I. BREDVOLD

University of Michigan

EINFUEHRUNG IN DAS STUDIUM DER INDOGERMANISCHEN SPRACHWISSENSCHAFT. By Josef Schrijnen, Professor an der Reichsuniversität Utrecht. Uebersetzt von Dr. Walther Fischer, Privatdozent an der Universität Würzburg. Heidelberg 1921, Carl Winter. 8-vo, X+340.

LANGUAGE. An Introduction to the Study of Speech. By Edward Sapir. New York, 1921, Harcourt, Brace & Co. 8-vo, VII+258.

It is a rare pleasure to review two books of such unquestionable value for the study and advancement of linguistic science. But while of equal merit, they present a most striking contrast to each other, differing radically in scope, attitude, and style, and in all of those subtle ways in which the writer's personality is stamped upon his work.

Schrijnen's book, while written by a Dutch scholar, is a characteristic exponent of German achievements and the German attitude towards science. It professes to be a relatively elementary introduction to the study of Indo-European linguistics, but at the same time it offers welcome orientation even to a well-trained specialist in Indo-European philology and should prove an invaluable aid to linguistic work in other branches. Its wealth of information is quite out of proportion to its small size. It contains a thoroughly adequate bibliography (though I missed reference to Buck's important *Ablaut*-articles); a more detailed discussion of the general principles of linguistics than is found in any other book of similar scope; a brief, but sufficient chapter on phonetics, including a satisfactory account

of the present state of experimental phonetics; and it presents Indo-European phonology in a clear and thoroughly up-to-date although conservative manner. It is unfortunate that the excellent little book stops short at this point. A chapter on morphology would seem entirely feasible and extremely desirable. Perhaps we may hope for a second volume, filling that gap? The Dutch edition (Leiden 1917) is not at my disposal, and the preface of the German edition does not suggest any such prospect, nor does it indicate the reason of this rather arbitrary limitation. We have passed that stage of Indo-European grammar, it would seem, when morphology was either too vague, or too complicated for an elementary book. Schrijnen's terseness and clearness would fit him admirably for striking a happy medium between the morphological chapters in the introductory books by Meillet and Meringer.

Concreteness—the presentation of definite facts with a minimum of stylistical embellishment, is the dominant note in Schrijnen's book. In moot questions he generally refrains from committing himself, but offers a lucid survey over the prevailing theories. This is true, for instance, in his chapter on the various attempts of linguistic classification, including the 'Mischsprachen' and the problems of the Hittite, Etruscan and Basque languages. Likewise, the question of the home of the Indo-Europeans is discussed without prejudice, although the author, on the whole, inclines towards the European hypothesis; I cannot admit, by the way, that the conservative character of the Balto-Slavic languages supports that view, as Schrijnen asserts (p. 60); I believe, on the contrary, that *emigrant* languages show a tendency to become petrified—Icelandic offers a striking instance. The Origin of Language; Language and Writing; Language and Race; Linguistic Changes (with a valuable digression on linguistic 'substrats,' pp. 86-88); Dialects; Social Linguistics; Linguistic Psychology (with a brief, but fair outline of the Sievers-Rutz investigations)—these are other chapters of the general part of the book that are characteristic of the author's objective and thorough method of skilful condensation.

Slightly less than one half of the book is devoted to Indo-European phonology. The extreme brevity of the phonetic chapter (fourteen pages, aside from experimental phonetics) leads occasionally to questionable statements; for instance, Schrijnen's definition of sonorous sounds (p. 178) does not apply to certain kinds of *r* and *l*, as the author states himself on p. 182. It is, however, valuable for the student of phonetics—and is not meant for the layman. Here as elsewhere, the book will prove to be of greater advantage to those students who have already gained some preliminary acquaintance with linguistic principles and methods than to beginners. Some chapters, for instance

chapter three, which deals with the most important categories of phonetic laws, are concentrated to such an extent that their wealth of information would bewilder the latter, but is highly instructive to the former.

The fourth chapter takes up in some detail the development of the individual Indo-European sounds, in accordance with Brugmann's methods and results. In the paragraph on the *Palatalgesetz* ('Collitz' Law', p. 243) I noticed with regret that the name of the real discoverer is mentioned merely incidentally, in the midst of five other names, while p. 34 at least mentions 'vor allem aber Collitz und Joh. Schmidt mit ihren massgebenden Veröffentlichungen.' Conservative everywhere, Schrijnen follows the traditional theories concerning Gc. *ǣ*(*ǣ*), *ǣ*(*ǣ*), IE. *þ*, IE. *bh*, *dh*, *gh* (he does not mention my assertion that they were voiceless spirants) and the *ablaut*. The chapter on *ablaut* is especially clear and concrete, but the chapter on the Germanic soundshift is rather mechanical and disappointing in a book of such excellent type; the same is true of the treatment of the High German soundshift, which revives the time-honored delusion of its spread from the south to the north (p. 297), and more or less of the discussion of the consonants in general. It is too brief for reference and too skeleton-like for a physiological understanding of the general linguistic trends. But in this Schrijnen merely follows the standard of most other recent books on the subject and does not deserve criticism. Wherever he appears to fail the defect is not his own, but belongs to the present generation of linguistic science. His book is not personal, but an excellent exponent of a valuable type.

Sapir's work, on the other hand, is personal in the extreme. The author is a refreshing iconoclast. His style is vivid, teeming with clever aperçus, at times even poetic. It is the style of the inspiring lecturer, of the interesting *causeur*, not of the objective scholar (which Sapir in reality is, to the highest degree). The book "aims to give a certain perspective on the subject of language rather than assemble facts about it." Schrijnen's book is all facts: Sapir is almost anxious to avoid them. The former gives definite information concerning established truths; the latter delights in the keen analysis of basic concepts and is always fruitfully suggestive although, of course, he cannot always present us with concrete results. He avoids "all the technical terms of the linguistic academy," but does not hesitate to coin a multitude of new ones. There is, as he proudly states, not a single diacritical mark in the whole book, and he abstains from giving a detailed survey of phonetics, as being too technical and "too loosely related to our main theme." (However, for the purposes of the book, his phonetic chapter, twelve pages, is quite as adequate as Schrijnen's.) The discussion is based chiefly on English material, but references to other languages

are frequent, and the author's position (Mr. Sapir is chief of the Anthropological Section, Geological Survey of Canada) makes it appear natural that examples are often drawn from the languages of the American Indians. It is characteristic that a warning is uttered against the overrating of the 'inflective' type of languages in comparison with the 'sober logic of Turkish and Chinese' and the 'glorious irrationalities and formal complexities of many 'savage' languages'.—In the selection of his examples, especially on the side of phonetics, Sapir has the advantage of the active experimenter; a systematized report on his experiences in recording and investigating primitive languages would be of the greatest interest.

The beaten paths exist for the author merely to be shunned. For such commonplace categories as parts of speech and inflections he substitutes four categories of linguistic concepts (the limitations of space prohibit my defining these terms): Basic concepts, (objects, actions, qualities), derivational concepts, concrete relational concepts, and pure relational concepts; on these concepts he bases a new classification of human speech, to replace the grouping into isolating, agglutinative, and inflective languages: Simple Pure-relational languages (e.g., Chinese), Complex Pure-relational (Polynesian, Turk), Simple Mixed-relational (Bantu, French), and Complex Mixed-relational languages (Semitic and most Indo-European languages).

Unhampered by any respect for authorities, Sapir displays a brilliant insight into the nature of linguistic processes. Language is 'a merely conventional system of sound symbols' (thus Sapir discards every trace of a belief in the onomatopoeic or interjectional theories of the origin of language); every language possesses a firmly established 'pattern' of sounds and forms, which is rigidly preserved regardless of phonetic morphological, or syntactic changes. Single sounds, or whole series of sounds change, but there is no loss of pattern. (If this empirical assertion—p. 195—should prove to be correct, it would do away with our present scheme of Indo-European consonants, which is clearly in accord with the phonetic patterns of Sanscrit, Tibetan, Burmese, but not with that of the any European language.) While independent from established traditions, in fact, almost intolerant against them, Sapir is less inaccessible to the influence of random assertions. Thus, he attaches considerable weight to Meillet's and Feist's untenable claim that 'there are a surprising number of common and characteristic Germanic words which cannot be connected with known Indo-European radical elements and which may well be survivals of the hypothetical Pre-Germanic language' (p. 226); from vague evidence of this kind he infers that the Germanic languages 'represent but an outlying transfer of an Indo-European dialect (possibly a Celto-Italic prototype) to a Baltic people speaking a language or group of languages that was alien, not Indo-European.'

The chapter on phonetic changes, in which the author rightly sees 'the most central problem in linguistic history' is the most fertile one of the book—indeed, it is the most brilliant exposition of the problem that I ever read. Every language, according to Sapir, possesses a 'phonetic drift' (a much better term than the expression 'tendency' that I was accustomed to use). This drift represents a general movement of the language towards a particular type of articulation—vowels may tend to become higher or lower, voiced consonants may tend to become voiceless, stops may tend to become spirants. As an illustration of a section of such a drift he sketches an ingenious picture of the English and German *umlaut*, basing its systematic spread in part on the same psychological tendency that gave rise to the morphological use of the *ablaut* (compare page 147 of my *Sounds and History of the German Language*). The passage is a striking specimen of the concrete results that might be gained by the consistent application of Sapir's highly subjective, audacious, independent method. But, of course, it is only a specimen.

Schrijnen's book is a summing up of a great past, a firm rock in the present. Sapir's book casts a divining glance into the future. The former is of greater immediate usefulness, but books of the latter type, while *mit Vorsicht zu gebrauchen*, are more inspiring.

E. PROKOSCH

Bryn Mawr College

DANTE IN SPAGNA-FRANCIA-INGHILTERRA-GERMANIA (DANTE E GOETHE). By Arturo Farinelli, Torino, Fratelli Bocca, Editori, 1922. IX+506 pp.

This book is a collection of five essays composed at various times, and here assembled, according to the preface, as a "compendium of the so-called fortune of Dante in the nations that are most cultivated and richest in literary and artistic traditions." The author reminds us that all the study devoted to Dante fails to explain "the mystery of his personality, the divine seal that was impressed upon it."

I. The first essay, entitled *Riflessi di Dante nei secoli* (pp. 1-28), is a lecture delivered by the author at Bellinzona on March 24th, 1921. It sums up the most important evidences of Dante's influence. In it the author deprecates the vast amount of publication occasioned by anniversary celebrations. He also deplores the tendency to overlook Dante himself in the mass of commentary devoted to him. He reminds us that we find in Shakespeare a life all nature and instinct; that we can lull ourselves to sleep and forget ourselves in Homer; that we can restore our strength in the divine humor of Cervantes; but that